against them, during the last three years in four metros, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of surprise checks/refill audits carried out by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs)/other state agencies against the distributors and action taken against them during the last three years in four metros.

Name of Metro City	Number of surprise checks by OMCs & other agencies	Number of refill audits	Number of cylinders found diverted	Number of distributors
Delhi	104	840	26,030	114
Mumbai	905	484	816	39
Chennai	23	236	1,960	25
Kolkata	Nil	90	Nil	Nil

Task force on exploration of oil resources

2122. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a task force to add to the momentum to the exploitation of the country's gas resources;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the task force;

(c) whether Government are inviting foreign direct investment in the exploration and exploitation of gas reserves in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the areas and reserves to be subject to exploration and exploitation operations and the steps taken and being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) With a view to attract private investment including foreign investment for exploration and exploitation of Hydrocarbon reserves in the 26 sedimentary basins of the country covering onland and offshore areas, the Government has been inviting bids from private companies on regular basis since 1991. To give further impetus to the exploration efforts, the Government has formulated the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) which provides equal opportunity to foreign companies and Indian companies, both Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and private to bid for exploration acreages, including those in deepwater, offered by the Government from time to time.

The exploration activities including identification and offer of blocks through NELP is a continuous and ongoing process. From 1991 upto the third round of NELP in 2003, Government has signed Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for 97 exploration blocks for Exploration and Production of oil & gas.

Subsidy on LNG

2123. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of subsidy given by Government for LNG;

(b) the details of subsidies for the last three years;

(c) the details of ownership of LNG Terminals;

(d) the details of LNG Terminals, location-wise and capacity-wise; and

(e) the details of proposed LNG expansion for the next five years, year-wise, promoter-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has been placed under Open General License (OGL) with 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Country's first 5 million